

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00227 120628Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /027 W

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P R 120553Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7247

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0227

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-AUSTRALIA USER CHARGE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 006094, CANBERRA 0176

1. WE HAVE INFORMED DR. JOHN TAPLIN, HALTON'S DEPUTY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, OF SUBSTANCE STATE 006094. HE LATER CONFIRMED GOA AGREEMENT TO HOLD TALKS ON INFORMAL BASIS ON USER CHARGE QUESTION FEBRUARY 2 AND 3. TAPLIN STATED, HOWEVER, THAT INASMUCH AS FUEL PRICE QUESTION CURRENTLY SUB JUDICE AND ALSO AT SENSITIVE STAGE OF REVIEW IN NEW GOVERNMENT GOA DOES NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. (WE ARE REPORTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECENTLY DEVELOPED ON FUEL PRICES BY SEPTTEL).

2. TAPLIN ALSO INFORMED US, WITH REGARD TO VENUE FOR TALKS, THAT AS OF END OF MARCH 1976 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT POLICY SHIFTED TO CANBERRA AND THAT ONLY OPERATIONS ELEMENTS OF FORMER AIR TRANSPORT GROUP (ATG) WILL REMAIN IN MELBOURNE. HE SAID DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (DOT) HAD NOT ACTUALLY FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF WHETHER FEBRUARY 2 - 3 TALKS WOULD BE HELD IN MELBOURNE OR CANBERRA BUT FOR TIME BEING WE COULD ASSUME THEY WILL TAKE PLACE IN MELBOURNE. TAPLIN'S INFORMATION ON IMPENDING SHIFT OF POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES

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TO CANBERRA CONFIRMS WHAT CHARGE LEARNED FROM HALTON

REGARDING POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN
CIVAIR (CANBERRA 0176). WE WERE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER,
THAT STAFF OF ATG HAD ACTUALLY BEEN GIVEN SIX MONTH
NOTICE OF TRANSFER TO CANBERRA, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR END
OF MARCH DATE. THIS APPARENTLY WILL MEAN THAT FUTURE
CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD IN CANBERRA.

3. FOR THIS REASON SHOULD FEBRUARY 2 - 3 TALKS TAKE
PLACE IN MELBOURNE, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO SEND OFFICER
TO SIT IN AS OBSERVER TO FAMILIARIZE SELF FIRST HAND
WITH PROCEDURES AND ISSUES. OFFICER WILL PROBABLY BE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHE J. M. CARLE WHO AT TIME TALKS TAKE
PLACE WILL ALSO BE ACTING HEAD OF E/C SECTION. WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE. WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO COMPOSITION USDEL.
PERCIVAL

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